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"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH"
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The Hongkong Telegraph.

ESTABLISHED 1861.

NEW SERIES No. 347.

日九初月四年二十二精光

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1896.

四拜禮 號一十二月五英港香

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

Banks.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

Authorized Capital.....\$1,000,000
Subscribed Capital.....\$500,000

HEAD OFFICE:—HONGKONG.

Court of Directors:—

D. Gillies, Esq.,
H. Stoller, Esq.,
Chen Kit Shan, Esq.,
Kwan Hoi Chuen, Esq.,
Chief Manager,
GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per Cent.
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1895.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL.....\$1,500,000
SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,185,000
PAID-UP.....\$688,500

BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON CURRENT
ACCOUNTS at the Rate of 2 per cent.
per annum on the Daily Balance.

On New Fixed Deposits:—

For 12 Months.....4 per cent.
" 6 ".....3 1/2 " "
" 3 ".....3 " "

J. W. R. TAYLOR,

Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 18th December, 1895.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE:—LONDON.

CAPITAL PAID-UP.....\$800,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS.....\$800,000
RESERVE FUND.....\$235,000

INTEREST ALLOWED ON CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of 2 1/2 per cent.
per annum on the Daily Balance.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months... 4 per cent.
" 6 ".....3 1/2 " "
" 3 ".....3 " "

T. H. WHITEHEAD,

Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 16th September, 1895.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$10,000,000
RESERVE FUND.....\$5,750,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS.....\$10,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:—
A. McCosker, Esq., Chairman.
St. C. Michaelson, Esq., Deputy Chairman.
Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, J. Kramer, Esq.,
G. B. Dodwell, Esq., D. R. Sassoon, Esq.,
M. D. Eckstein, Esq., R. Shawan, Esq.,
R. M. Gray, Esq., N. A. Slebs, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER:

Hongkong—T. JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER:

Shanghai—J. P. WARD, Esq.

LONDON BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED

On Current Account at the rate of 2 per Cent.

per Annum on the daily balance.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 months, 2 1/2 per Cent. per Annum.

For 6 months, 3 1/2 per Cent. per Annum.

For 12 months, 4 per Cent. per Annum.

T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 15th February, 1896.

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted
by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be
obtained on application.

INTEREST ON DEPOSITS is allowed at 3 1/2 PER
CENT. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option
balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED
DEPOSIT at 4 PER CENT. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI

BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1895.

Intimations.

NAVY LEAGUE.

THE HONGKONG BRANCH of the NAVY
LEAGUE cordially invites the COM-
MUNITY of HONGKONG to the CITY HALL TO-
MORROW, the 22nd instant, at 5.15 P.M., when
Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., will deliver an
Address.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1896.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

AN ISSUE of B SHARES is offered to the
Registered Shareholders of the above
COMPANY in the proportion of one B Share for
every Share they hold. Every Shareholder on
the Register on THURSDAY, the 23rd instant,
will be entitled to an allotment of one B Share
for every Share, whether A or B, registered in
his name. All applications must be made on
forms for the purpose, which may be obtained
at the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION on and after the 23rd instant,
and must be filled up and lodged with that Bank
on or before THURSDAY, the 7th May next,
together with a sum of ONE DOLLAR for every
Share applied for as a first instalment. A
Receipt will be given, which must be forwarded
to the COMPANY in charge for Scrip. No
further call will be payable in respect of these
Shares without at least two months' notice.

The SHARE REGISTER will be CLOSED
on THURSDAY, the 23rd instant, to THURSDAY,
the 7th day of May following, both days
inclusive, during which period no transfer of
Shares can be Registered.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1896.

Insurances.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1844.

CAPITAL.....\$3,000,000
TOTAL FUNDS AND SECURITIES.....\$2,480,053
NET ANNUAL FIRE PREMIUM.....\$737,478

HAVING been appointed AGENTS of the
above Company we are prepared to accept
EUROPEAN AND CHINESE RISKS at
CURRENT RATES.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 2nd January, 1896.

EMPEROR ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

FIRE AND MARINE.

WE have this Day been appointed
AGENTS, and are prepared to accept
RISKS at CURRENT RATES.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 28th April, 1896.

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Underigned AGENTS of the above
Company are prepared to accept First
Class FOREIGN AND CHINESE RISKS at
CURRENT RATES.

SIEMSEN & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1895.

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000.....\$833,333.33
EQUAL TO.....\$833,333.33
RESERVE FUND.....\$318,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq., LO YUEK MOON, Esq.,
LOO TAO SHUM, Esq.

MANAGER.—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS ON GOODS, &c., taken
at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the
World.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1895.

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES ON GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

CHAU TSEUNG FAT,

Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,

No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1896.

Intimations.

INSURANCE HOLIDAY.

THE Undermentioned INSURANCE
OFFICES will be CLOSED for the
Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY,
the 25th instant (WHIT MONDAY):—

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents,

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LD.

General Managers,

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

N. J. EDE,

Secretary.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF

CANTON, LD.

L. KENNARD DAVIS,

Acting Agent,

NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE CO., LD.

E. W. MAITLAND,

Acting Secretary.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LD.

SHEWAN & CO.,

Agents.

YANTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LD.

GEORGE L. TOMLIN,

Acting Secretary.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

WM. MACBEAN,

Manager.

THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LD.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1896.

NOTICE.

A SPECIAL SESSION of HER
MAJESTY'S JUSTICES of the PEACE
will be held in the JUSTICES' ROOM, at the
MAGISTRACY, at 2.30 o'clock in the Afternoon of
WEDNESDAY, the 27th day of May, A.D.
1896, for the purpose of considering an applica-
tion from one ELIZABETH GOLDBERG for the
Transfer of her Publican's License to Sell
and Retail Intoxicating Liquors on the Premises
situated at houses Nos. 90 and 92, Queen's Road
West, under the sign of THE WESTERN HOTEL, to
one FITZROY INGLEDEW FRANCIS
BEDFORD.

WM. C. H. HASTINGS,

Acting Police Magistrate.

Magistracy,

Hongkong, 15th May, 1896.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that SCRIP
CERTIFICATE No. 1,445, issued 6th
July, 1895, for one Share numbered 1,445 in
the above Office, standing in the name of Mr.
YONG SENG, of SWATOW, has been LOST,
and should the same not be produced before the
25th instant a new Scrip Certificate will be
issued to the said Mr. YONG SENG, and no
transaction taking place under the said Scrip
Certificate No. 1,445 will be recognized by the
Office.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,

General Agents,

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1896.

Intimations.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR STEAMERS CAPTAINS TO SAIL

JAPANPeronsC. H. S. Toque, R.N.R. Noon, 22nd May. (Freight or Passage. (Passing through the Island Sea.)

LONDONCeylonC. E. BakerAbout 5th May. (Freight or Passage. (Passing through the Island Sea.)

JAPAN, &c.AdenR. E. L. Hill, R.N.R.About 30th May. (Freight or Passage. (Passing through the Island Sea.)

SHANGHAIKatarah-HindC. L. DanielAbout 31st May. (Freight or Passage. (Passing through the Island Sea.)

LONDONMandlaR. L. Haddock, R.N.R.About 15th June. (Freight or Passage. (Passing through the Island Sea.)

For Further Particulars, apply to

H. A. RITCHIE, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1896.

FRESH DAIRY BUTTER

the product of the PRINCE OF WALES DAIRY COMPANY, India. This

BUTTER is guaranteed PURE and of THE FINEST QUALITY.

THE HONGKONG BUTCHERY, CENTRAL MARKET.

PRICE, for Single 1 lb. tin60 Cents.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1895.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WE are now offering the balance of our Stock of LADIES
DRAPERY and GENTLEMEN'S OUTFITTING

Furnishing Goods, Bedsteads, &c., &c.

At Half-price for CASH.

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.

HONGKONG TRADING CO.,

1, 3 & 5, D'AGUIAR STREET.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1896.

MOUNT AUSTIN HOTEL.

1,400 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS, "EXCELSIOR," HONGKONG.

A. B. C. Code.

TELEPHONE, No. 35.

THE TEMPERATURE IS AT LEAST 10 DEGREES COOLER THAN IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

TIFFIN AT 1 P.M. DINNER AT 3 P.M.

ARRANGEMENTS can be made for TIFFIN or DINNER PARTIES in PRIVATE DINING-ROOM.

For further Particulars apply to

THE MANAGER,

MOUNT AUSTIN HOTEL.

Hongkong, 27th July, 1895.

THE PHARMACY.

TAN SAN, TAN SAN, TAN SAN.

This refreshing and invigorating Table Water contains 8 per cent. more IRON CARBONATE than any Water from similar Spas.

Sole Agents for HONGKONG and SOUTH OF CHINA:—

FLETCHER & CO.

CARMICHAEL & CO.

BILLIARDS

AT H.K. HOTEL.

THREE PRIZES.

CARBOLNEUMAVENARIUS

USED FOR 20 YEARS.

With the Utmost Success.

Thoroughly reliable preservative for Wood and Stone against White Ants, Decay, Fungus, Rot and Dampness.

Sole Agents for China,

SCHIELE & Co.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1896.

HONGKONG TIMBER YARD, WANCHAI.

OREGON FINE SPARS and LUMBER

Always on Hand.

1, MALEDOY,

Hongkong, 15th June, 1895.

G. FALCONER & CO.

WATCH & CHRONOMETER MANU-FACTURERS and JEWELLERS.

NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS and BOOKS.

No. 42, Queen's Road Central.

LEVY HERMANOS.

AND AT

SHANGHAI, MANILA, ILOILO AND PARIS.

JEWELLERY, DIAMONDS, WATCH, CHRONOMETER & CLOCKMAKERS.

GENERAL IMPORTERS & EXPORTERS.

15, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Opposite the Telegraph Office.

"ODOL."

THE MEDICAL HALL,
DEUTSCHE APOTHEKE,
90, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
Hongkong.

Intimations.

BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG HOTEL—PRAYA.

BELL'S ASBESTOS NON-CONDUCTING BOILER COVERING
COMPOSITION is acknowledged to be the best in the East.

TESTIMONIALS referring to above may be seen anytime at this Office.

ESTIMATES given for work finished complete.

W. JACKSON, Manager.

Hongkong, 13th May, 1896.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

GENERAL STORE-KEEPERS AND COMMISSION AGENTS.

SHIPCHANDLERY DEPARTMENT.

SIR CHAS. PRICE & Co.'s ENGINE and CYLINDER OILS.

ENGLEBERT'S CYLINDER OIL.

CRANE'S CYLINDER OIL.

VALVOLINE, CASTOR OIL, &c., &c.

TUCK'S GENUINE PATENT PACKING.

ASBESTOS PACKINGS of all kinds.

PARAGON PATENT PACKING.

ROPE, CANVAS, &c.

HUBBARD'S PAINTS and VARNISHES.

HOLZAPFEL'S PATENT COMPOSITION, ANTI-CORROSION and ANTI-FOULING, for STEEL VESSELS.

SOAPSTONE ENAMEL COMPOSITIONS for HOLDS, BUNKERS and TOP-SIDES.

FRESH WATER SUPPLIED.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1896.

EXPLOSION IMPOSSIBLE.

JASTRAM'S PATENT

GOLDEN MEDAL

PETROLEUM ENGINES

OF 2 TO 12 H.P.

FOR FACTORIES AND LAUNCHES.

WORKED BY ORDINARY PETROLEUM.

Consumption of Petroleum 1 lb. per H.P. and Hour.

A Working Stationary Engine and a Launch with a 4 H.P.

Engines will be shown and full particulars be given on application.

ZETLAND LODGE.

Na. 125, E.C.

A NEW FURNITURE MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on MONDAY, the 25th inst., at 8 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend. Hongkong, 21st May 1896. [1846]

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Steamship "PRIVANG," Captain Th. Lehmann, will be despatched for the above Port on SATURDAY, the 23rd inst., at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to STEWART & CO. Hongkong, 21st May, 1896. [1840]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA (DIRECT).

THE Company's Steamship "ESMERALDA,"

Captain G. A. Taylor, will be despatched for the above Port on SATURDAY, the 23rd inst., at 5 P.M.

This Steamer has Superior Accommodation for Passengers, and is fitted with the Electric Light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to SHEWAN & CO. General Managers. Hongkong, 21st May, 1896. [1847]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship "HAITAN,"

Captain Roach, will be despatched for the above Ports on SUNDAY, the 24th inst., at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LARRAIK & CO. General Managers. Hongkong, 21st May, 1896. [1850]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR TIENTSIN.

THE Steamship "NANCHANG,"

Captain Finlayson, will be despatched on SUNDAY, the 24th inst., at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents. Hongkong, 21st May, 1896. [1851]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, SAMARANG AND SOERABAYA.

THE Steamship "SHANTUNG,"

Captain Frempton, will be despatched on WEDNESDAY, the 27th inst.

For Freight, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents. Hongkong, 21st May, 1896. [1851]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, SAMARANG AND SOERABAYA.

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FOR SINGAPORE, SAMARANG AND SOERABAYA.

THE Steamship "SHANTUNG,"

Captain Frempton, will be despatched on WEDNESDAY, the 27th inst.

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED, VICTORIA DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

GINGER ALE.

SARSAPARILLA.

RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are made under the constant supervision of a duly qualified English Chemist and will bear comparison with the best English Manufactures.

Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSES and other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the Manager. Hongkong, 21st May, 1896. [1847]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINE AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London House, bought direct at first hand, imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply the best goods at MODERATE PRICES.

PRICE LIST.

with Full Details, to be had on Application.

PORT after removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY.—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner Wines of very superior Vintages. All are true Xeres Wines.

CLARET.—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currents as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY.—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The SCOTCH WHISKY marked "E" is universally popular, and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our WINE AND SPIRITS to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorised Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD. THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY. Hongkong, 10th January, 1896.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1896.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mr. SHARP's proposal at the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce that the members should be called together more frequently, say once at least in each quarter, was a very sensible idea, and if carried into operation would add immensely to the value and influence of the Chamber. Hitherto the Committee has been, for all practical purposes, the Chamber; and the members of the Committee have done all the thinking and all the writing and speaking for the whole body. There was a time in Hongkong when half a dozen or a dozen of the leading men in Hongkong might, with some degree of reason and justice, be said to represent the entire community. They were the heads of wealthy and powerful firms, each representing some great branch of trade, of considerable influence and authority in and out of the colony; and carrying with them the confidence and support of all other traders in the same line. They were in a sense the colony and their opinions were the opinions of the colony. But that state of things no longer exists. The big houses have vanished and the big men have vanished with them. No mercantile firm is now in a position, as were in former days the great houses of DIXON and JARVIS, to

make or to mar any man's career, to ban or to bless as seemed to them most convenient. There is a much greater equality between the firms, a much keener competition in all branches of business, greater personal independence, and less personal influence and authority. There is only one big man in the place, and he forewears all interference—good, bad, or indifferent, public or private—with any affair, however important, outside of the range of his own business. The members of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are all very good men in their way, but they are no longer, either in respect of the firms they represent or of their own personal qualifications, entitled to decide for the community as a whole, nor is there any longer that solidarity of interests among the members of the community that authorized a few to speak and act effectively for the whole. The present members of the Chamber would like to do their own thinking, and the Committee ought to afford them every opportunity for so doing by circulating among all the members all correspondence as it comes in. Printing is cheap. Type-written copies are cheaper still, and the Chamber has funds enough in hand to afford the purchase of one or two machines. How Americans would stare if told that it was too much trouble or too much expense to prepare and circulate the Chamber's correspondence. Each member would thus have an opportunity of expressing his opinions and views on each question as it turned up and while it was still a living issue, instead of, as at present, being asked to sit upon its corpse. Quarterly meetings would enable the Committee to keep in touch with their constituents and would put an end to the power of individual members of the Committee to commit the Chamber to opinions and representations it would not have approved of if the members generally had been consulted. There is nothing like publicity for checking little jobs of all kinds. There is nothing more fatal to the common weal than hole and corner discussions and confidential communications. These may be a necessity for them sometimes in the conduct of affairs of state, where the susceptibilities of foreign powers have to be considered, but there is no need for secrecy of any kind in the transaction of the business of a Chamber of Commerce. Like the debates in Parliament, it should be open to all the world. The minutes of every Committee meeting should be promptly published. It would be an advantage even if the Committee sat in public. Every number of the Chamber should, at least, be kept informed of the current business before the Chamber and have an opportunity of expressing an opinion if he thought fit. This would make the Chamber what it is not now—a living body and an influence and a power for good. At present it is a corpse galvanised into a semblance of life for an hour or two once in every year, and once only.

If Reuter's telegram published yesterday represents a fact and not a mere rumour or belief we are distinctly nearer to war, and to a great war, than we have been at any time since President Cleveland threatened fire and sword if England did not at once consent to submit the question of the Venezuela boundary to arbitration. It would have been mean and discreditable to have given in on such a question and to have submitted to dictation, but even if we had done so and withdrawn from the entire territory in dispute it would not have hurt us or affected any material interest in the least. To have disregarded the telegram addressed to President KAVAZOV by the Emperor WILLIAM instead of replying by the immediate mobilization of a Flying Squadron would not have lessened our prestige in the least degree, and might have increased our reputation for coolness and common sense, but a demand for the immediate evacuation of Egypt under a threat from two great powers of compulsion if we did not quit is a much more serious affair in itself and in its probable consequences. To comply with the demand made on us in respect to the land of the Pharaohs would be fatal to our power and prestige throughout the world, and especially throughout India and the Eastern world, where all our great interests lie, and where it is prestige alone that sustains us. If France and Russia press seriously for our surrender of our position in Egypt we must either fight for it or step down from our proud pre-eminence and confess that we are no longer the great empire we have so long professed to be. Our authority in India would be shaken to its very foundations, our exclusion from the Mediterranean would be a foregone conclusion, our claim on the respect and allegiance of the greater colonies would be gone for ever, if we were tamely to submit to dictation on such points and to go back on our repeated declarations that we are in Egypt and shall remain there until the task we have set ourselves has been accomplished. There is a great deal to be said for and against our presence in the Nile Valley and our continuance there, but whether we are there rightly or ought not to withdraw from it, it would be practically impossible for us to withdraw under dictation. It would be to invite attack from all sides. It would be looked on, not as a concession to justice or to righteousness, but as an open confession of weakness and of inability to hold our own. We are within an easily measurable distance of war, of a war for our very existence as a great power, and everything points to a deliberate intention on the part of two powers at least to force us into war or to bring us on our knees under such circumstances that the effect upon us would equal the most disastrous defeat. England is in the very crisis of her history.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S MESSAGES.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LONDON, May 19th. The order of Knighthood has been conferred upon Chief Justice Lionel Cox, of the Straits Settlements.

OBITUARY.

Archduke Charles Louis, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

(From *Diario de Manila*)

OPIUM OF THE CORTES.

MADRID, May 12th. Under the presidency of her Majesty the Queen the Spanish Cortes was opened in Madrid on the 11th inst. There was a very brilliant show.

THE REBELLION IN CUBA.

Colonel Segura has beaten the rebels in an open fight. They fled leaving 40 dead on the field. The chief Moreno has been taken prisoner and will be tried summarily.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Porpoise* left here this morning bound for Singapore.

THERE were four cases of plague to-day—one in the city, one in the harbour, and one each from British and Chinese Kowloon.

NINE cases of cholera were notified in Singapore from noon of the 19th to noon of the 20th. Two were Japanese, and the others Chinese, and six of the cases were discovered after death. Two cases of enteric fever and one of puerperal fever were also notified.

THE Singapore Chamber of Commerce has received official advice from Saigon, that, on account of the outbreak of cholera there, vessels arriving from Singapore will, until further orders, be inspected there by a Medical Officer. If need be, native passengers will have to undergo medical examination.

THE Hawaiian Government seems to be inclined to refuse the further landing of Japanese labourers, and some rules have been issued for the purpose of preventing any more arrivals from Japan. In their stead Chinese are likely to be selected. The Oriental Emigration Co., which was organized in Hawaii, has begun to employ Chinese settlers.

A LARGE area of ground at Tamsui and Taipei is owned by foreign residents, some of whom had purchased the land when the Chinese fled upon the approach of the Japanese troops. The Japanese authorities will not recognize foreign ownership of any land accompanied with title-deeds, or of land transferred after the island became a Japanese possession.

MESSRS. Jardine Matheson & Co., the local agents of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., inform us that they have received telegraphic advice from the London Office that it is the intention of the Board of Directors at the forthcoming general meeting to propose that a dividend of eight per cent be paid on the result of the work for the year 1895.

It is reported that the Committee of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce will support the movement originated in London, and adopted by several Far Eastern bodies, aiming to secure a reduction of telegraphic rates to Japan and a revision of the proposed universal code. The body will also strive to bring about a reduction of the rates charged for local telegrams in Tokio itself.

Mr. J. Napier, formerly in the employ of Messrs. Dikin, Crickshank & Co., Ltd., Hongkong, who arrived in Singapore about ten days ago, died suddenly on the 19th inst. The deceased was a chemist by profession, and being out of work went to live with a friend at 32, Hill Street, where he died. He was last seen alive at 10 a.m., being found dead in his bed at one o'clock. An inquest will be held.—*Free Press*.

THE Supreme Council of Sarawak met under the presidency of the Rajah on the 27th April, when the rules relating to Indian immigration which had been in the hands of the members for some time, were finally read and passed. The Rajah informed the members that he was forwarding a copy to the Governor of the Straits Settlements, and he trusted the same would meet with the approval of the Government of India, and on the receipt of their acknowledgment, the same would be notified in the *Gazette*, and to planters and others, and the immigration could at once commence.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Alliance Memorial and Netherdale Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

On Tai Insurance Co., Ltd.	100
Shin & Co.	25
Chai On Tai Insurance Co., Ltd.	25
T. Jackson	25
Wing Kee & Co.	25
Wai Yau	25
H. M. Hillier	25
Ho Mei	25
Tai Yai	25
Bismarck & Co.	25
J. B. Cousins	25
A. M. Eschbayer	25
Liao Tse San	25
A. J. de Rosario	25
Paul Brest	25
F. D. Gold	25
W. Brown & Co.	25
A. S. Cohen	25
A. Dimson	25
T. Meek	25
C. L. Tomlin	25
H. L. Bottell	25
C. A. Cannondill	25
C. O'Brien & Co.	25
E. Ellis & Co.	25

MEMORANDA.

TO-MORROW.—22nd May. 5:25 p.m.—Meeting of the Navy League, Hongkong Branch, in the St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall.

FIFTY Japanese emigrants have arrived at Moua, where they intend to settle and cultivate the land.

THE last of the soldiers belonging to the Second Army Division in Formosa arrived at Ujina on the 8th inst. by the *Oturu Maru* and the *Kagoshima Maru*.

THIS is not the first time that the King of Siam has visited Java. His Majesty went there in 1872. The same year the King also visited India, starting for Calcutta on December 10th, and returning to Siam on March 15th, 1873.

WHILE two Chinese fishermen were returning to Serangoon lately, says a Singapore contemporary, their boat was struck by lightning, one of the men being knocked into the water and drowned. At the same time a hole was made in the boat, but the other man succeeded in making his way ashore.

THE Registrar-General says that a matter calling for serious attention is the rate of suicide amongst firemen and trimmers in the mercantile marine. It is about 1 in 100. Suicide amongst firemen in the Royal Navy is very rare. The rate of suicide amongst all males between 20 and 55 is only 1 in 5,000.

FOR the monopoly of the revenue farms in Sarawak, during the three years from 1st July next, there were sent in but two tenders, one from the present Farmers and the other by Ban Hock of Kuching, in partnership with a Penang firm. The latter's tender was at an increase on the present rate and was successful. The present Farmers are said to have made a net profit of \$50,000 last year, but their tender stood at only \$12,500 a month. The farms have been let from the 1st July, 1896, for \$15,000 a month as against \$12,500 at present, an increase of \$2,500 a month.

SECOND GYMKHANA MEETING.

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1896.

1.—4.30 p.m. FIVE FURLONG RACE.—First prize a cup presented, with \$20 added. Second prize a cup presented, with \$10 added. Polo Ponies and Subscribers Office of the season 1895-96 allowed 5 lbs. Winners of 1896 penalized for one win 5 lbs., two 10 lbs., three or more 14 lbs. Entrance \$3.

2.—4.40 p.m. HURDLE RACE HANDICAP.—One mile. First prize a cup, presented, with half the entrance fees. 2nd, \$20; 3rd, 10 shillings. Entrance \$1, but if left in after 2 p.m. 1st June, \$3 extra.

3.—5 p.m. LADIES' NOMINATION.—Nominations to start on foot 50 yards from the winning post, run to their nominators, who will hand each man his coat which he turns inside out, puts on and buttons, runs back to his pony, which is held 10 yards from the winning post, mounts "bare back" and rides home. First prize the post with coat fully buttoned to win. Six competitors, two prizes; 1st, three prizes; 2nd, two prizes; 3rd, one prize. Entrance \$2.

4.—5.30 p.m. LEMON CUTTING.—Number of runs to be decided by the Committee according to length of time available. Three points for each fair cut. Two points may be deducted or added for style and pace. First prize 70 per cent. of entrance fees with \$20 added; 2nd, 10 per cent. of entrance fees. Entrance \$3. Practice on the Polo Ground, Causeway Bar, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5 p.m.

5.—6 p.m. OCEAN ROYAL HANDICAP.—First prize \$50. Second \$20. Entrance \$1, but if left in after 2 p.m. 1st June, \$3 extra.

THE WHITEWASH BRIGADE.

ACTION OF THE AUTHORITIES ON MR. DANBY'S LETTER.

Official notice was directed to the correspondence appearing in these columns on the 14th inst. by the following letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Secretary to the Sanitary Board:—

Colonial Office, May 19th. Sir,—I am directed to forward for the information of the Sanitary Board the enclosed letter addressed to the *China Mail* by Mr. W. Danby on the subject of the cleaning of the city, and to state that his Excellency the Governor desires that a strict enquiry may be made at once into the alleged irregularities and the result of the investigation reported for his information.

I have, etc., (Sd.) J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

To the Secretary, Sanitary Board. This letter, together with Mr. Danby's letter and a draft answer, was circulated.

FURTHER EXPLANATIONS FROM MR. DANBY. Mr. Danby was communicated with and sent the following further particulars:—

Hongkong, May 16th, 1896. The Hon. F. A. Cooper, Dear Sir,—In reply to yours of yesterday, unless it is absolutely necessary, I now much prefer you did not publish the individual cases I mentioned to you on Monday last. My clients (as is often the case with Chinese) do not wish that the information was given you confidentially for what it was worth, as I told you at the time, with a view to your having it related or otherwise, which you could do in your position much better than any private individual.

Several other and similar statements were brought me yesterday (all unsolicited) respecting the rough manner in which the work is being carried out. I did all I could to induce the parties to go direct to Mr. McCallum with their complaints. They appeared to be very reluctant to do so, however, although I told them that Mr. McCallum would do all he could to assist them. If on investigation he found correction necessary he would do so.

A well known European gentleman wrote me yesterday afternoon mentioning a case. I asked him either to write your direct himself, or to the papers. In his reply he said "his clients do not wish to do so," giving their reasons which I can understand, and further he goes on to say that "I don't want my clients to feel that I have done them harm instead of good by telling you of their grievances." That is just the position we are in.

After I saw you on Monday last my intention was to let the whole matter drop altogether. After seeing, however, what I did on Wednesday afternoon and knowing the many rumours so extensively circulated in the Colony, I thought it best to write to the papers with a view to ventilating the whole question; well knowing that if my statements were correct things would be immediately rectified, and if they were wrong the public would very soon be made aware of it. In any case I hoped good would result. The main object I had in writing was to suggest that the goods and merchandise of the Chinese merchants and stockholders should be handled with a little more care and also that some "reasonable" time be given them to remove their own goods themselves, should they wish to do so.

Yours truly, Wm. Danby.

MR. MCCALLUM EXPLAINS.

Mr. McCallum wrote as follows:—

With reference to Mr. W. Danby's letter to the *English daily papers* of the Colony I think it desirable to lay before you the facts, in so far as the remarks therein refer to me personally.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Eds called at the office and said that Mr. Danby had made certain definite statements to him, declaring that in certain houses cocklofts only about 7 feet high had been left while in others there were 8 feet in height had been removed. I asked Mr. Eds if he would be good enough to go and see those premises with me and if possible get Mr. Danby to accompany us. Mr. Danby consented to go and we went.

Mr. Danby went straight to a narrow street which is called "Egg Lane" but which is really Wing Sing Street. We went into four shops in the back part of which there were cocklofts about 7 feet above the ground floor. Bearing in mind that certain cocklofts had to have a clear space of 9 feet below and 8 feet above, I remarked that the cocklofts we had just looked at appeared to be illegal, but that before making any definite statement, I would refer to the notification dealing with the subject of granting permission for the continuance of cocklofts. This I invariably do when a question about cocklofts occurs, because the notifications are not long retained correctly in my memory. Mr. Danby then went to No. 60 Bonham Street and showed us that cocklofts standing over 8 feet from the floor had been removed. When leaving these premises we were asked to enter a shop where some bedding had been removed the reason for which removal he did not understand.

On my return to the office I looked at the Notifications Nos. 373 and 407 and at once saw how matters stood, but to clarify the matter I sent for the Inspector of the District and questioned him as to how he read the notification and the construction he put upon them. This he did at once and without the slightest hesitation showing to me that he was perfectly conversant with this part of his duties. I then asked him to show me the notices which Mr. Danby had shown me. Mr. Eds and myself the previous afternoon, whilst making this second visit I told the tenant of No. 60 Bonham Street to call at my office and I would explain to him the reasons for the action taken and which he so glibly professed not to understand.

On Monday I sent to Mr. Danby a copy of notification No. 373 of 1895, underlining in red the part which showed that the cocklofts which he considered were illegal were perfectly legal and it would have been an illegal act to have removed them. Mr. Danby has either failed to grasp the meaning of the notification or he is guilty of a gross misrepresentation of the law remarks I made to him on the subject with which the notification deals. I also sent a copy of the notification to Mr. Eds with a note explaining that the cocklofts in Wing Sing Street were in accordance with the law.

The tenant of No. 60 Bonham Street called to see me on Monday together with his wife and six or seven others. Carefully explained to them the reasons why their cocklofts had been removed, viz., that they had a combination of cocklofts and cocklofts and that the cocklofts had not the space below them which the law demands. They seemed to clearly comprehend the position. Some of them said they wished to re-erect their cocklofts and they were told there was no reason why they should not receive permission to do so in accordance with the law if they applied for such permission.

One of the men talked very volubly about the damage to his goods which he estimated at \$1,000. I told him he had better specify the actual damage done and apply for compensation, but that \$1,000 was a considerable sum of money and he would have to show clearly and distinctly how he arrived at that round figure. He somewhat impatiently replied that he would make a claim, but that if the Board would not accept his claim in full he would put the matter in the hands of his solicitors. I at once told him that if those were his views he had better go to his solicitors and let the point be determined in a court of law, and that I neither could nor would listen to such statements from him.

It is perfectly true that on several occasions when Chinese came to this office expressing a desire to clean their own premises I have told them that was just what I wished them to do, and subsequently to keep them clean. I have on such occasions given these people a memo addressed to the cleaning gang telling them that Mr. ——— had given notice of his intention to clean and whitewash his premises and that there was therefore no use to clean them for him for a few days, but if he failed to do his work that he must just be treated in the same way as the others. The occupier of Nos. 91 and 103, Bonham Street got such a paper from me and brought it back next day saying the constable in charge of the cleaning gang had read it and picked it out of the floor. The man was somewhat excited by malice and I quickly told him I would enquire into the matter. I subsequently saw Police Constable No. 72 and he denied having picked the memo out of the floor but as the man would not take it from him, he put it on his desk. Of course this is a case of an apparently respectable Chinese trader's word against an European Constable's word, and consequently it is somewhat difficult to arrive

